

J. R. PROCTER IS DEAD

President of the Civil Service Commission Expires Suddenly.

WAS FRIEND OF ROOSEVELT.

Deceased Official Strove Many Years For Abolition of the "Spoils System"—Noted as a Geologist and Reformer.

Washington, Dec. 14.—John R. Procter of Kentucky, president of the United States civil service commission and an intimate friend of President Roosevelt, is dead of angina pectoris at the Cosmos club in this city. Mr. Procter attended the annual meeting in Baltimore of the National Civil Service Reform association and made an address, apparently being in the best of health. He was with some friends at the Cosmos club, of which he had been a prominent member for many years, but became suddenly ill. Surgeon General Wyman of the public health and marine hospital service was at the club at the time and immediately administered medical aid. Dr. G. L. Magruder was hurriedly summoned. Mr. Procter was assisted to a bed and shortly afterward went to sleep and improved so much as to encourage his friends to hope for a speedy recovery. Civil Service Commissioner Cooley notified Mrs. Procter and also the president, who expressed concern and kept in touch with the patient's condition. The attack proved fatal in a few hours. When the president returned to the White House Mrs. Roosevelt remained with Mrs. Procter. The remains were carried later to the Procter apartments in the Marlborough.

Mr. Procter had been a frequent visitor to the White House ever since Mr. Roosevelt's accession to the presidency. The two met years ago in Kentucky, where Mr. Roosevelt was traveling, and the acquaintance then begun quickly ripened into close intimacy.

A son, Lieutenant Andrew Morton Procter, is in charge of a torpedo boat now stationed at the Norfolk navy yard, and another son, John R. Procter, Jr., is a lieutenant of artillery, U. S. A. Both of these sons served in the Spanish-American war.

Served in the Confederate Army.

Mr. Procter was fifty-nine years old. He was born and brought up on a farm in Kentucky. He left the University of Pennsylvania to enlist in the Confederate army in 1863, remaining in the service until the close of the year. He returned to Kentucky and pursued scientific studies, becoming state geologist. He was a member of the jury of awards at the world's fair in Chicago and was appointed by President Cleveland a member of the civil service commission ten years ago at the suggestion of Mr. Roosevelt, then a member of the commission, who had met Mr. Procter during a trip to Kentucky.

During his service as state geologist he refused, even at the dictation of members of the state legislature, to remove competent assistants for political reasons and was sustained by all of the governors under whom he served

until 1893, when it is stated, the then governor wished him to make appointments for personal and political reasons. Mr. Procter resisted this and advised that the survey be closed rather than be used as a machine for advancing the political interests of any one by making the offices spoils to be let out to partisan favorites. Mr. Procter's appointment on the civil service commission was urged by Mr. Roosevelt, then civil service commissioner, who, when in Kentucky, had learned of Mr. Procter's vigorous and practical application of reform methods in the face of adverse conditions.

He and Mr. Roosevelt were colleagues on the commission from 1893 until Mr. Roosevelt's resignation in 1895. During Mr. Procter's service on the commission the number of positions subject to the merit system increased from 43,000 to 120,000. He interested himself especially, securing in 1896 the withdrawal of positions of chief clerks and chiefs of divisions from the spoils system, and they are now filled by the promotion or transfer of trained men within the classified service. Mr. Procter made various contributions to magazines, mostly on geologic, economic and international subjects. He was a member of the Century club of New York.

BANDITS IN NEW JERSEY.

Blow Open a Railroad Safe and Commit Other Crimes.

Camden, N. J., Dec. 14.—A desperate gang of cracksmen appeared in Pavalia, a suburb, and after nearly wrecking the Pennsylvania railroad station at that place with dynamite used in blowing open the safe made good their escape, securing little booty for their trouble. Before robbing the station the burglars, five in number, held up Oscar Till and Jacob Eppler, tenders of the State street drawbridge over Coopers creek, and shot at Ralph Haines, a telegraph operator in the signal tower, a short distance from the station. After the robbery the bandits held up the crew of a drill engine who were making up a freight train and at the points of their revolvers compelled Edward Appleton and Henry Smith, the engineer and fireman, to leave the vicinity.

When the drill engine, with Appleton and Smith aboard, arrived at the station the thugs opened fire upon the two men, who dashed away to Fish House, a small station five miles distant, and from there wired to Camden for aid. A squad of policemen were hurried to the scene, and when they came up with the robbers a lively exchange of shots occurred, but the desperadoes eluded the officers. There was only about \$10 in the safe at the station.

Sentenced For Postal Frauds.

Baltimore, Dec. 14.—Columbus Ellsworth Upton and Charles W. McGregor, former clerks in the postoffice department at Washington, who were found guilty of postal frauds, have been sentenced by Judge Morris to serve two years in the Maryland penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$1,000 each. The counsel for both defendants gave notice of appeal. The specific offense charged against Upton and McGregor was conspiracy with Charles E. Smith, a leather merchant of Baltimore, to defraud the government on a contract for leather pouches. These pouches, which cost only 35 cents each, were furnished to the government for 80 cents.

SOLDIERS FOR PANAMA?

Report That Our Troops Will Go to the Isthmus.

COLOMBIA MOVING HER MEN.

Cutting Paths Across the Mountains on Panama Border—Our First Minister to the New Republic.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The coming of General Bell to Washington, while it has more or less to do with matters connected with the general staff college, is admitted by officers of the general staff to be for the purpose of consulting with the officials regarding a probable campaign against Colombia should that country continue the movement of troops toward the isthmus. It was intimated that matters had reached the point where troops might be moved at any time, which would seem to indicate that the department is in possession of information the tenor of which justifies actual preparations for the movement of United States troops toward Panama. Although the fact would not be disclosed, the presumption is that in the event of troops being sent General Bell will be put in command.

COLOMBIA MOVING MEN.

New Republic Is, However, Preparing For an Election.

Panama, Dec. 14.—Advice received here from Cartagena say that the Colombian cruisers General Pinzon and Cartagena have landed 400 men under Generals Bustamante and Ortiz at Cape Tiburon, at the mouth of the Atrato river, with the object of cutting paths across mountains to enable the Colombian troops to invade Panama. According to these advices, there is in Cartagena a standing army of 1,000 men.

Considering the republic of Panama to be in complete peace, the junta has published a decree convoking a national convention for Jan. 15, 1904. This convention will formulate a constitution and laws for the government of the republic. It will be composed of thirty-two representatives, four each for the provinces of Bocas del Toro, Colon, Coope, Veraguas, Los Santos and Chiriqui and eight for Panama. All males born within the boundaries of the new republic who have reached the age of twenty-one years and reside on the isthmus and all Colombians who have sworn allegiance to the republic shall have the right to vote unless they have been deprived of their rights of citizenship. Members of the junta, ministers, magistrates, the director of telegraphs and all public officials having authority throughout the republic are debarred from election to the convention. In the capital of each province there will be organized an electoral committee of five members who shall be appointed by the junta. The voting will be direct and secret, and the elections will take place Dec. 28.

OUR MINISTER TO PANAMA.

Mr. Buchanan Is to Be Armed With Special Powers.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Regarding it as very desirable that W. J. Buchanan, who has been appointed by the president first minister to the republic of Panama, shall be at his post at an early moment, the state department has adopted the unusual course of making out for him a special commission independent of the nomination in regular form. This commission designates Mr. Buchanan as envoy extraordinary on a special mission. Under its powers he will be able to perform all the duties of a regular minister and more if need be. He will hold this commission until such time as the United States shall have confirmed his regular nomination as minister plenipotentiary and envoy extraordinary to Panama. Thus armed Mr. Buchanan will take the first steamer from New York for Panama, sailing on Tuesday.

Mr. Buchanan in an interview said: "I have been asked to go to the isthmus on a special mission for the state department which will occupy several weeks. I intend to leave New York on Tuesday and will doubtless return about Feb. 1. My business relations and affairs are such that it would be out of the question for me to accept the ministry to Panama, which would necessitate my remaining there a long time. It is easy to see how that construction of the facts in the case might have been applied, because no responsibility of the kind is now in Panama."

Mr. Buchanan is a diplomat of experience, having held the post of minister to the Argentine Republic. He is well known as a manager and originator of exhibitions and held the post of director general of the Pan-American fair.

Reyes Now Colombia's President.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The Colombian legation has received a cablegram from General de Castro, commander in chief of the Colombian army, dated Port Limon, Costa Rica, conveying the information that the results of the election for president held throughout the country on Dec. 8 show a complete triumph for General Reyes. When seen General Reyes would make no statement beyond saying that he expected to remain in the United States for a fortnight longer.

Chicago Gets Big Convention. Washington, Dec. 14.—Chicago has been selected by the national committee as the place for holding the national Republican convention next year. Other bidders for the honor were St. Louis and Pittsburgh. The date was fixed as June 21.

COLOMBIA'S DENIAL.

Cripple Creek Says Senator's Resolutions Are Unfounded.

Cripple Creek, Colo., Dec. 14.—At a joint meeting of the executive board of the Cripple Creek Citizens' alliance and the Cripple Creek Chamber of Commerce the following telegram was adopted and immediately transmitted to the president of the senate, Washington:

"The good people of Teller county, Colo., and the whole state characterize the resolution of Senator T. M. Patterson as false and grossly misrepresenting the acts and motives of Governor Peabody and the law-abiding citizens of this state and county."

Resolutions were adopted condemning the action of Senator Patterson in introducing resolutions in the United States senate concerning the labor conditions in Teller county.

Governor Makes Statement. Denver, Dec. 14.—"I am perfectly willing to have congress or a congressional committee investigate my conduct in connection with the strike troubles," said Governor Peabody in reference to the resolution which Senator Patterson introduced in the United States senate. "I have nothing to cover up. My course has been simply to preserve law and order and maintain the constitution and laws of the state."

Test Case in Colorado.

Cripple Creek, Colo., Dec. 14.—The habeas corpus case of Victor Poole, the union miner who is held by the military without formal charge being made against him, was heard by Judge Seeds of the district court, and after argument on the part of Attorney Crump, representing the military, and Frank J. Hange, attorney for the Western Federation of Miners, the court ordered Poole's release.

Colorado Strikes to Continue.

Denver, Dec. 14.—The executive board of the Western Federation of Miners has authorized a denial of a published report to the effect that the strikes in the Cripple Creek and Telluride districts will be called off.

New Interstate Commerce Bill.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Senator Quarles introduced a bill to further define the duties and powers of the interstate commerce committee. It provides that any order made by the committee after a hearing and determination had on any petition declaring any existing rates for the transportation of persons or property to be unjustly discriminative or unreasonable and declaring what rates would be just shall become operative and be observed within thirty days after notice. It provides also that in the event of neglect to obey any order of the commission performance thereof may be summarily enforced by writ of injunction or other proper process, besides a penalty of \$5,000 for each day of continuance of such violation.

Villard Will Attacked.

New York, Dec. 14.—The World says that Mrs. Helen Villard Bell, the only daughter of the late Henry Villard, has brought suit in the supreme court in Westchester county to set aside the will of the millionaire. She names as the principal defendants her mother, Mrs. Fanny Garrison Villard, and her two brothers, Oswald and Harold Villard. The defendants altogether number fifty, including educational and charitable institutions, to which Mr. Villard left about \$250,000.

The Butler Typhoid Epidemic.

Butler, Pa., Dec. 14.—Two deaths and nine new cases of typhoid have been reported to the relief committee. Notwithstanding the belief of several prominent physicians that the disease is rapidly subsiding, the committeemen, who are working night and day to stamp out the scourge, think differently. Burgess Kennedy says to have such a report credited will check the contributions of which the committee stands in need.

Seek Protection For Bees.

Worcester, Mass., Dec. 14.—The Worcester County Bee Keepers' association in meeting have recommended that state legislation be secured to protect the insects against foul and black brood, as the cattle commission protects cattle from tuberculosis. It was announced that a state association had been formed to push the matter.

Geographical Expert Dead.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Marcus A. Baker, assistant secretary of the Carnegie institution, for many years connected with the government coast and geodetic and geological surveys and the cartographer of the Venezuelan boundary commission, is dead at his residence in this city. He was fifty-four years of age.

Smallpox in McKeesport, Pa.

McKeesport, Pa., Dec. 14.—The Fifth Avenue hotel, the largest and most centrally located hotel in the city, has been put under quarantine by Health Officer Walker because of the discovery of a man with a supposed case of smallpox sitting in the office. About seventy-five people are confined in the house.

Did Not Murder Husband.

Mount Holly, N. J., Dec. 14.—Mrs. Sarah A. Beatty, who was charged with the murder of her husband, Samuel Beatty, on July 6 last, has been acquitted. Mrs. Beatty claimed she killed her husband in self defense.

Painted Post Fire Stricken.

Corning, N. Y., Dec. 14.—Fire has destroyed practically one-third of the business places of Painted Post, a village two miles west of this city.

Windfall For a Veteran.

Bath, N. Y., Dec. 14.—John Tucker, an inmate of the State Soldiers' home here, has been granted \$2,080 back pension money.

ANTI-SMOOT CASE AGAIN

Protests Against Seating of the Utah Senator Filed.

CHANCE FOR DEFENSE GIVEN

Senate Committee Requests Mormon Member to Make a Written Answer to Charges—Contents of the Protests.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The senate committee on privileges and elections met to outline a policy to be pursued in investigating the protests filed against Senator Reed Smoot being permitted to retain his seat and decided that before taking further steps in the matter Senator Smoot should be given opportunity to make reply to the charges.

In addition to the innumerable petitions filed with the committee for the expulsion of Mr. Smoot two protests from citizens of Utah were presented and briefly considered by the committee. These protests charge Mr. Smoot with being a polygamist. They also charge that the Mormon church, of which Smoot is an apostle, holds its own laws to be superior to those of the state, and they contend that the church still stands for polygamy.

Senator Charged With Polygamy.

The specific charge that Mr. Smoot is a polygamist is made by John T. Lelich. The other charges are signed by eighteen citizens of Utah, of whom fourteen are Republicans and four Democrats. A statement has been filed with the committee giving the occupations and other facts concerning the signers. This statement shows them to be men of standing. Their charges are as follows:

"First.—The Mormon priesthood, according to the doctrines of that church, is vested with supreme authority in all things temporal and spiritual.

"Second.—The first presidency and twelve apostles are supreme in the exercise and transmission of the mandates of this authority.

"Third.—As this body of men has not abandoned the principles and practice of political dictation, so also it has not abandoned belief in polygamy and polygamous cohabitation.

"Fourth.—That this is the attitude of the first presidency and apostolate, even since the suspensory manifesto of 1890, is evidenced by their teachings.

"Fifth.—This body of officials, of whom Senator Reed Smoot is one, also practice or connive at and encourage the practice of polygamy and polygamous cohabitation, and those whom they have permitted to hold legislative office have, without protest or objection from them, sought to pass a law nullifying enactments against polygamous cohabitation.

"Sixth.—The supreme authorities in the church, of whom Senator Reed Smoot is one—to wit, the first presidency and twelve apostles—not only connive at violations of, but protect and honor the violators of the laws against polygamy and polygamous cohabitation."

The Utah senator, discussing the matter, said that he would be glad to prepare a statement in denial of the charges affecting his integrity as a senator as soon as practicable and added that if necessary he would bring witnesses to substantiate his assertions.

Contractors For "Open Shop."

Chicago, Dec. 14.—After two hours of deadlock on the "open shop" question the new association of building contractors, according to a "closed shop" exponent who belted the meeting, has adopted as the "open shop" clause of their constitution a clause that declares every contractor who grants the "closed shop" a violator not only of the laws of the organization, but of the laws of the United States. Sixty-two New York builders' organizations represented in the builders' conference have refused to join the new organization.

Train Wreck in West Virginia.

Wheeling, W. Va., Dec. 14.—The north-bound passenger train known as the Pittsburg and Kenova flier on the Panhandle road collided head on with a south-bound cattle train at Glenora, a few miles above this city. Two trainmen were killed and three injured, both trains being completely wrecked, but the passengers escaped with a few minor cuts and injuries.

More Trouble in Servia.

Paris, Dec. 14.—The Memorial Diplomatique says the news from Servia is extremely disquieting. According to dispatches received here, the personal situation of King Peter and the cabinet appears to be critical. The country is divided into irreconcilable factions, and the revolutionary movement is gaining ground.

Tom Johnson's Brother Ill.

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 14.—W. L. Johnson of Detroit, Mich., brother of Tom Johnson of Cleveland, O., has been taken to the hospital here in a very serious condition, due to stomach trouble.

Gotham's Republican Leader.

New York, Dec. 14.—Charles H. Murray will be the new president of the New York county Republican committee, succeeding Linn M. Bruce, whose resignation was announced last week.

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Red Cross Pharmacy

Alleged Dynamiter Arrested.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 14.—John E. Chandler, charged with complicity in the dynamiting of the Sun and Moon mine transfer house at Idaho Springs, Colo., on July 28 last, has been arrested here. He was financial secretary of the Idaho Springs Miners' union at the time of the disturbances which followed the breaking out of the strike last summer, and he fled just before information was filed charging him with arson and conspiracy to commit arson.

Deadly Stove Polish.

Springfield, Mass., Dec. 14.—Mrs. Mary E. Chellis and her daughter Mabel were seriously burned, the former probably fatally, in their home here as the result of an explosion of a bottle of stove polish which the daughter was holding in her hands.

"First Aid" For Trainmen.

Chicago, Dec. 14.—The trainmen of the Chicago and Eastern Illinois road are to be given a course of instruction regarding the best method of giving first aid to the injured in case of railway wrecks.

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